



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 5500

LCO No. 2291

02291_____CE_

Referred to Committee on Commerce

Introduced by:
(CE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS AFFAIRS
AND ESTABLISHING THE SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 32-9n of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) There is established within the Department of Economic and
4 Community Development an Office of Small Business Affairs. Such
5 office shall aid and encourage small business enterprises, particularly
6 those owned and operated by minorities and other socially or
7 economically disadvantaged individuals in Connecticut. As used in
8 this section, minority means: (1) Black Americans, including all
9 persons having origins in any of the Black African racial groups not of
10 Hispanic origin; (2) Hispanic Americans, including all persons of
11 Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other
12 Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race; (3) all persons having
13 origins in the Iberian Peninsula, including Portugal, regardless of race;
14 (4) women; (5) Asian Pacific Americans and Pacific islanders; or (6)
15 American Indians and persons having origins in any of the original
16 peoples of North America and maintaining identifiable tribal

17 affiliations through membership and participation or community
18 identification.

19 (b) Said Office of Small Business Affairs shall: (1) Administer the
20 small business development center program run by the Department of
21 Economic and Community Development; (2) coordinate the flow of
22 information within the technical and management assistance program
23 run by the Department of Economic and Community Development; (3)
24 encourage the Connecticut Development Authority to grant loans to
25 small businesses, particularly those owned and operated by minorities
26 and other socially or economically disadvantaged individuals; (4)
27 coordinate and serve as a liaison between all federal, state, regional
28 and municipal agencies and programs affecting small business affairs;
29 [and] (5) administer any business management training program
30 established under section 32-352 or section 32-355 as the Commissioner
31 of Economic and Community Development may determine; (6)
32 provide a single point of contact for small businesses seeking financial
33 and technical assistance from the state and quasi-public agencies; (7)
34 coordinate all state funded revolving loan funds used to assist small
35 businesses; and (8) establish, in cooperation with the Commissioner of
36 Economic and Community Development, and within available
37 appropriations, an informational web page with a list and links to all
38 small business resources available and post them in a conspicuous
39 place on the department's web site. The office shall update this
40 information on its web site on at least a quarterly basis.

41 (c) On or after February 1, 2011, the Office of Small Business Affairs
42 shall compile a summary of all small business activities and programs
43 available and incorporate such summary into the report required
44 pursuant to section 32-1m.

45 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) The Department of Economic
46 and Community Development shall appoint and convene a Small
47 Business Advisory Board, which shall include, but not be limited to,
48 the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and

49 representatives of the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, the
50 Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Incorporated, a
51 manufacturing association, a business association, a chamber of
52 commerce and an economic development entity. Such representatives
53 shall serve for a term of five years. The board shall meet on or before
54 December 31, 2010, and at least annually thereafter.

55 (b) The Small Business Advisory Board shall provide guidance to
56 the department with regard to resources available to small businesses.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	32-9n
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To expand the duties of the Office of Small Business Affairs and to establish a Small Business Advisory Board.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]